

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.

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Evidently Oahu was saving up during last winter's drouth for a rainy summer.

Mugwumps who support Bryan had rather see the nation's finances ruined than to have the sway of its Republican institutions extended. There is no accounting for tastes.

There are gratifying signs that the respectable owners of the filthy yellow journal are getting ashamed of it and that the public will soon be relieved of the duty of feeling ashamed of them.

Charles B. Wilson properly rebukes John Wise for his contemptuous remarks about the missionaries. It was the missionaries who educated Wise—or tried to—and who paid his way through college. That he is ungrateful was to have been expected but this probably does not disturb the missionaries, who are used to it. What must provoke them is that after all their care to make a scholar and a gentleman out of Wise he should take every possible chance to prove himself an ignoramus and a boor.

The appearance of Clarence M. White's letter in this paper is one of many proofs of the willingness of the Advertiser to give the other side a hearing. A letter in opposition to the views expressed on the editorial page will always be published if it is intelligibly written, is morally fit to print and is not too long-winded. Our columns are a free parliament to presentable contributors of any faith. We commend Mr. White's criticism of the Advertiser's views as a model of courteous rejoinder. Such a letter, however much we may differ from its argument, need never go elsewhere to find print.

NOW FOR THE PRIMARIES.

The primaries are upon us. They will be held today at the specified places between three and nine o'clock p. m. All Republicans who are American citizens and citizens of Hawaii have the right to vote.

The delegates chosen at the primaries here and elsewhere in the group will decide upon:

(I). The Republican Legislative ticket and the official attitude of the party towards the City and County government scheme.

(II). The Republican nominee for Delegate in Congress.

(III). The personnel of the Republican Territorial Committee.

The real contest is between good government and machine rule and as such it demands the presence and the aid of every Republican who wants to keep the party clean and make it useful to the people. The motto of the day is No Rings, No Bossism, Majority Rule!

THE HILO PROPOSAL.

Why take the Republican Convention to Hilo? The Republicans of the big island need no bracing up; indeed the latest Hilo Tribune demanded to know why the Republicans of Oahu were so quiescent? The volcano island is bulging with enthusiastic Republican politics and is ready to erupt. It needs no impetus from Oahu; indeed it wants a chance to infuse this part of the group with some of its own surplus energy.

It is a suspicious fact that a change of venue is urged more persistently in Honolulu than elsewhere. From Hilo we have heard very little as yet; the noise and the shouting of the captains is mostly local. Throughout the greater part of the group Honolulu is preferred. Kaula does not want to undertake the Hilo voyage; neither does Molokai or the north side of Maui, for the people there, to reach Hilo, find it most convenient to come here first and then transship. From Kona, Hawaii, it is more difficult to go to Hilo than it is to Honolulu. Often Kona people go to Maui or Honolulu to get a steamer for the capital of their own island. They are not clamoring for a Hilo convention; most of the clamor, as we say, comes from a faction here, thereby strongly suggesting ulterior motives.

What motives can influence in this case? Is it not fair to assume that the first object is to keep certain business men whom the machine does not want in the convention from attending as delegates, they being too busy to spare the time? And is it not likely that the machine wants to escape the deterrent influence of the great mass of conservatives here and get into an atmosphere where such influence is lacking? These theories look plausible to those who have watched the politics of the machine during the last few months. It is no answer to them to say that the Republican organization of the big island needs the tonic effect of a Territorial Republican rally.

OPEN PRIMARIES.

By "open primaries" is meant the keeping open of the register of voters at primary elections until the polls close, thereby giving opportunity for fraud, by bringing in "floaters" and other persons not entitled to vote, and drowning out the genuine voters of the precinct.

The Advertiser stated yesterday that the "open primary" is a recognized implement of machine politicians, and that one of the chief causes of distrust in the party was the fact that, at the last Territorial convention, a proposal to require registration to be on or before a fixed date prior to the election, was carried by a large majority; but was so violently opposed by the minority that the majority finally "in the interests of harmony" reversed the vote. We further stated that if a free and fair primary election was held to-night resulting in the election of good men, it would quiet this distrust and call out the full strength of the party at the next election while a contrary course would result in defeat.

Mr. Clarence White takes exception

BLACK OR WHITE LABOR IN HAWAII.

The New York Sun of August 10th contains the following leading article:

The sugar planters of the Territory of Hawaii need hands for their cane fields and are planning to obtain negro labor from our Southern States. Their main reliance, for years, has been the Japanese, of whom there are about 25,000 in the islands. Only a small part of the 19,000 Chinese immigrants have been employed on the sugar plantations. They have been engaged in general agriculture and particularly in tilling the rice fields and in work about the towns. These Asiatic races number a third of the population and, as further immigration from China and Japan has been prohibited, the labor problem has again become important.

Years ago, the sugar planters studied the possibilities of procuring white labor. The result was satisfactory and the labor problem was believed to be solved. It was found that the climate of the Azores is almost identical with that of the Hawaiian Islands and that scores of thousands of the Portuguese inhabitants work in the fields. Eleven thousand of them were brought, under contract, to the Hawaiian plantations. They rendered efficient service and proved themselves adapted for hard labor under tropical conditions. But it happens that they are thrifty and ambitious. As their savings increased they left the cane fields and now they are teamsters, mechanics, overseers, merchants and landowners. White labor was a failure because it could not be kept down to cane raising.

There is no harder farm work than sugar-cane growing. From planting to grinding it requires the labor of strong men under a blazing sun. Any one who has seen the negroes cutting cane on the big plantations near New Orleans knows how well they work. There are no better sugar hands anywhere than those on the Louisiana plantations. Cuba, the largest source of cane sugar in the world, would be glad to have equally efficient labor. It is among these Louisiana sugar hands that a few Hawaiian planters are now engaging laborers; and they say if this first experiment succeeds, many thousands of Southern negroes will be a welcome addition to the labor supply of our island territory in the Pacific.

There is plenty of work for our negro citizens at home. But if any of the most industrious among them wish to emigrate, no fairer land than the Hawaiian Territory can be found. It is a paradise compared with any part of tropical Africa; and how can it help being healthful with the northeast winds permeating every part of it, and temperature that is ten degrees cooler than that of any other land in the same latitude?

We do not doubt, especially since the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution has been nullified in so many Southern States that some thousands of negroes could be hired to come here and labor in the cane fields. Perhaps Bishop Turner, who wants the whole negro population to migrate to Africa, would take a contract to supply as many field hands of his race as Hawaiian planters might call for. We anticipate no trouble on that score. But nevertheless it is a proper question whether white men cannot be had for the cane fields and if so whether they would not be a more desirable class of labor and citizenship.

The condition of farm laborers in the United States is about as follows: Young men in some localities hire out for six or eight months at \$15 per month and found and for the cold weather for \$10 per month and found. As only one-third as many hands are needed on a farm in winter as in summer, many are idle during the cold months. Those men who work in summer experience hotter weather than that of Hawaii; and those who work the year around endure extremes of heat and cold which only seasoned constitutions can resist.

Now why not offer transportation, steady work and good wages to such people? The desire to see strange lands would tempt them as well as the steady work. The idea of living where it is always summer attracts every northern spirit. If it is a question whether American farm laborers could endure the climate, point to the circumstance that men just like them are bearing up finely under the superior hardships of campaigning in Luzon and doing it for \$12 per month and rations. Better a cycle in peaceful Hawaiian cane fields than a year under fire in the miasmatic heats of the Philippines.

The Advertiser believes that nothing should be left undone to get white labor before black labor is brought in large consignments. The negro would give us another race problem and Heaven knows we have enough. The easy prey of the demagogue he might become the bulwark of political misrule. What Hawaii needs more than any one factor in its population is white men. Out of a population of perhaps 150,000 we have but 10,000 whites, there or thereabouts, and until the proportion is vastly increased the islands will always be held back from the duties they ought to perform as a Territory of the American Commonwealth. Good government, American institutions, the safeguarding of society, diversified industries, eventual statehood—all these can be benefited most by white immigration. It is within the power of the planters, if they go about the work with right good will, to give the islands such a population. Why should they give them instead a race element which has been the cause of a disturbance in American society and politics for a hundred years?

to this statement in a communication printed herewith. He discusses a large number of other rules which he states were considered by the convention. Whether these other rules were good, bad or indifferent has nothing to do with the case. Three-fourths of Mr. White's letter simply befores the issue. The statement made by the Advertiser and now reiterated is, that the differing elements in the party can be harmonized if no advantage of the opportunity offered by the "open primary" rule is taken to-night, and the several precincts are allowed to freely elect the delegates of their choice; but if there is colonizing or other attempt to improperly defeat that will, it will so increase the existing distrust as to greatly weaken if not insure the defeat of the party. The conservative business men of Honolulu are nearly all Republicans; but they are not to be led by the nose or bulldozed into supporting machine-made candidates in whom they have no confidence. Harmony is to be had for the asking. The only prerequisite is that which ought to be granted without question—a free and fair election, and respectable delegates.

HARMONY THROUGH CONCESSION.

Let us have harmony, but that sort of harmony which comes from mutual concessions.—Clarence M. White.

There never was a better chance for harmony than that presented at the McKinley ratification meeting. Some time before that meeting took place it was proposed to a leading member of the Territorial Republican Committee that eight speakers should be chosen, four of them from the wing called the machine and four from that represented by the conservatives, and that an attempt should be made to bring both sides into a harmonious agreement on a common platform. The Committee-man said the idea was a good one and that he would do his best to carry it out.

The meeting came and went. Of all the old-line American citizens of Hawaii, leaders of the movement which made a Republican party possible here, only Mr. Dole was invited to speak and he by virtue of his office. By an odd coincidence the invitation was so timed that it reached the Governor on the eve of his departure from Oahu on a vacation journey. Two young men of ability, both new-comers, were asked to speak for the conservative element but one of them, T. McCants Stewart, was put at the end of a long program and he found, when his turn finally came, that the people were too tired and restless to warrant any further appeal to them. The upshot of the meeting was that Mr. Sewall and his followers had the platform practically to themselves while the majority of the Republican party of Oahu, many of whom were present, got the scantest courtesy. We do not overlook the fact, withal, that some of them were asked to serve as Vice-Presidents—in other words were shelved.

Since that time no member of that element which, as Mr. White is pleased to say, the Advertiser represents, has been consulted, in more than a perfunctory way, about the policies or welfare of the party. Instead all have been told, as a useful piece of news, that the machine had decided to pledge Republican candidates to the Legislature to a scheme of City and County government and that the nomination

for Congress had been the same as made. There was no talk of "concessions" then; it only comes now when the machine men fear that, if they do not get conservative Republicans to elect some of their primary nominees, they may, in certain districts, lose all. They are willing to assist the election of conservative delegates whose success is assured if only they can induce the conservatives to elect in return certain machine men who stand no show without such aid. This invitation is like that of the fox in the fable when he invited the raven to raise her voice in harmonious song so that she might drop the choice morsel she was carrying in her beak.

The Advertiser has no desire, even when the Republican majority asserts itself and takes its proper place in party management, to exclude or blacklist any Republican. It does not believe in a proscription policy; that, indeed, is what it is protesting against here and now. Nor will this paper decry an olive branch that is offered in good faith. Let us add that the harmony that comes from mutual concessions is the best harmony but first let those who have made the original discord and have been keeping it up, display their stock of concessions and permit a thorough examination of the goods.

"Oh, I've practically given up hope," said the Populist, disgustedly; "I did think of running for office in our county myself, but those dastardly Republicans have put up a game that would just about make it a waste of time." "What have they done?" "Well, I can't be just sure, but it looks to me as if they had been out watering the crops at night just to spoil our chances."—Chicago Post.

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